

REVOLUTION

socialist youth movement

ISSUE 90

Fight racism! Smash fascism!



a word from the editor

The May elections saw the Tory's win by a landslide. Gordon Brown has managed to fritter away an 11% lead in the opinion polls last summer. Now Labour are a massive 18% points behind the Tories. The Crewe by-election was added insult to injury, showing just how unpopular Labour had become - a safe Labour seat lost by a massive margin to David Cameron's blues.

Labour only has itself to blame. They claim to represent ordinary working class people and receive millions in funding from trade unions every year, but in their ten year's in office they have done nothing but attack working people. From pushing through privatisation in health and education, waging a series of brutal wars for domination overseas, scapegoating Muslims and asylum seekers for their failures, and attacking our democratic rights too.

The resurgent Tories are not an alternative to Labour. In practice they have almost identical policies - don't believe David Cameron's "nice guy" persona. In the 1980s the Tories carried through a series of vicious attacks on working class people. They introduced laws banning effective trade unionism - the "anti-trade union laws" - which Labour refuse to repeal.

So what's the alternative? With an economic crisis deepening, this government is bound to get nastier. We need to prepare to resist organising on the streets and in the workplaces. REVOLUTION fights to organise young people in this struggle. We fight for a new working class party with radical solutions to our problems. We need to win the argument for communist politics as a solution to the war, racism, and oppression of global capitalism.

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42 Days: Labour's latest attack

*** BY NAT * LONDON ***

New Labour's latest Counter-Terrorism Bill passed its first vote in the House of Commons this week by just nine votes. This victory was possible only because Brown bought off wavering MPs and minority parties, such as the Northern Irish Democratic Unionists who were offered a seat on the Security and Intelligence committee, plus £100m in financial support.

Opposition to the Bill is mostly focused on its extension of the time limit that "terror suspects" can be held without charge to 42 days. The previous 28 days limit was already higher than anywhere else in the West, compared with 7 _ days in Turkey and only 48 hours in the US. It also compares with a maximum period of 4 days detention without charge for any non-terrorist offence (such as murder, robbery or rape). The pretext is that

terrorist offences are so complex and secretive that it can take longer to find evidence on which to charge people.

But the reality is that the longer you hold someone that has neither committed any terrorist offence nor made any plans to do so, the more the police can use their intrusive and intimidating questioning techniques to break them. They hope that suspects will eventually confess to something, even if only to having sympathies for terrorists. For this reason socialists are opposed to all extended periods of detention for terrorists. We recognise that they are a way of discriminating against ethnic minorities and criminalising opposition to the War on Terror.

On the other hand the Tories - who oppose the Bill and are currently posing as the great

defenders of civil liberties - support police powers to lock up suspects without charge for 28 days. However, their record is dire - they carried out a brutal campaign in Northern Ireland and against striking workers during the 1980's for example - and their leader David Cameron has called for the Human Rights Act to be scrapped.

Neither the Tories nor any bourgeois party can lead a real civil rights campaign. Instead, we need a mass movement of workers, youth and ethnic minority communities; those who would bear the brunt of these laws. We must say loudly and clearly that we oppose the "War on Terror" - which is really a war on any resistance to our ruling class - on all fronts, both the invasions abroad and the increasing repression at home.



Bolivia: right attempts break up

★ BY TIM ★ UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX ★

On Saturday June 7th, Bolivia's main trade union federation, the Central Obrera Boliviana or COB, which represents 2 million workers, announced it was calling for an indefinite general strike and strategic road blocks from Monday 16th, if the government does not agree to a new Pension Law.

The pension issue is really just a "lowest common denominator" which the union leadership was prepared to accept. In reality, rank-and-file activists have built a movement for a strike based on a much broader set of demands - that Evo Morales carries out the set of reforms which he was elected on, and radically improves wages, pensions and democratic rights in Bolivia.

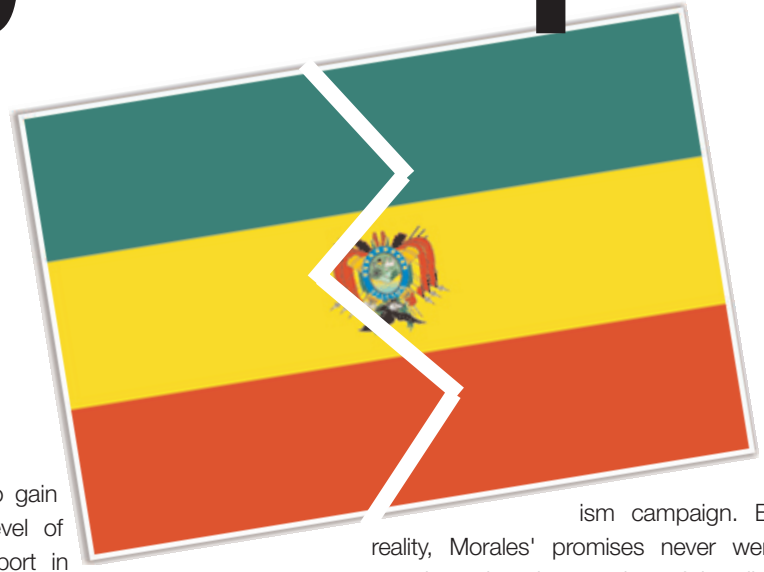
Morales was elected in 2003 after mass uprisings against the previous government by workers and peasants, particularly in the poor highlands where the majority of Bolivians live. They wanted Bolivia's natural resources to be used to benefit the poor, not multinational corporations and the oligarchs. Morales and his party, the MAS (Movement Towards Socialism), came to power by promising to do this through reforms.

However, Bolivia's four lowland provinces - the largest of which is called Santa Cruz - are considerably richer in natural resources and tend to have a whiter, more middle class population. The ruling elite is mainly located in such areas and has been making moves towards greater "autonomy" or even separatism ever since Morales came to power. This boils down to a struggle to keep control of wealth rather than see it redistributed. So far they have been able to sabotage Morales' reformist plans.

In order to gain the same level of popular support in the lowlands, the oligarchs have spread the idea that the economy will be impoverished by Morales "robbing" wealth to give to the "undeserving" Indians. This has led to organised fascist gangs - often supported by regional governors - carrying out a campaign of terror against Morales' supporters and indigenous people.

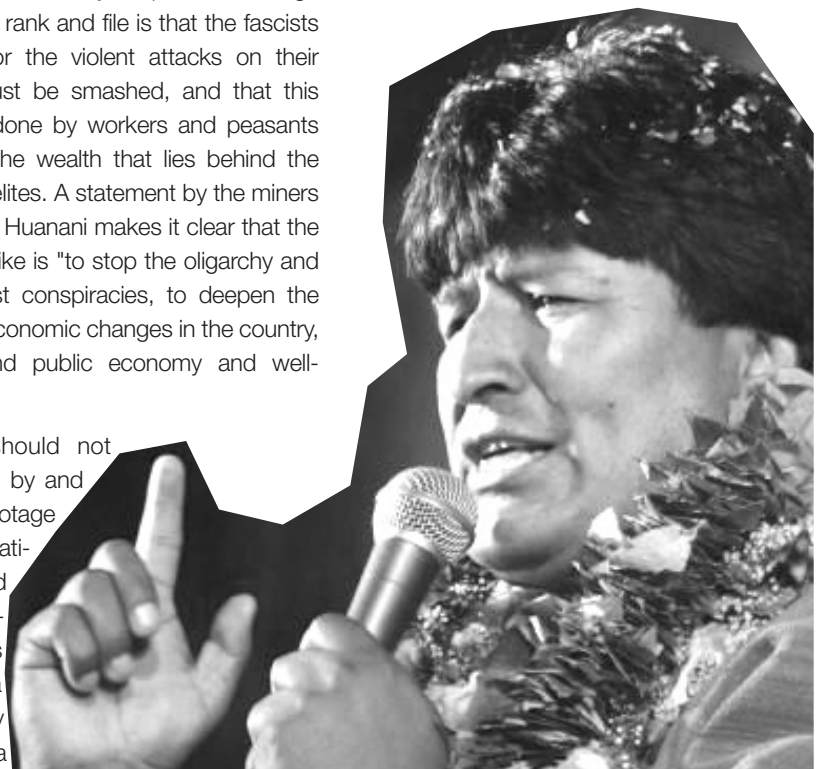
The call for a general strike reflects the understanding by more and more Bolivians that the government's inactivity in the face of all this is in fact strengthening the right and laying the basis for a military coup. The message from the COB rank and file is that the fascists responsible for the violent attacks on their comrades must be smashed, and that this can only be done by workers and peasants taking away the wealth that lies behind the power of the elites. A statement by the miners of the town of Huanani makes it clear that the task of the strike is "to stop the oligarchy and their separatist conspiracies, to deepen the political and economic changes in the country, and to defend public economy and well-being".

Bolivians should not have to stand by and watch the sabotage of a democratically elected set of progressive reforms just because a small minority carries out a



terrorism campaign. But in reality, Morales' promises never went far enough, and as the terrorism of the oligarchs shows, there can be no real change as long as they hold the economic power.

This strike presents a real chance for the workers and peasants' movement to build a united front against the separatist oligarchy. They will need to challenge the MAS's current hold over the popular movement and build a mass revolutionary party that unites workers and peasants, wins over rank and file soldiers and fights uncompromisingly to seize the power and wealth from the elites.





POSTAL SERVICE FOR SALE. APPLY WITHIN...

*** BY ALASDAIR * LEEDS ***

When Royal Mail is mentioned, the first thing that will come to mind would be the brutal attacks on pay and pensions last year and the long and drawn out strike action taken against these attacks by the postal workers, sometimes with and sometimes without the support of their union leaders in the Communication Workers Union (CWU). The struggle ultimately went down to defeat, the CWU bureaucracy eventually signing an agreement in which the bosses made almost no concessions at all!

These attacks are damaging enough, but they are part of a wider attack on the postal service - privatisation. New Labour, committed to privatising all public services opened up the market for post in 2006, forcing Royal Mail to turn itself into a company competing for profit if it wants to stay afloat. Two years later 40% of bulk mail, the most profitable sector, has been taken over by private companies, yet those companies still use Royal Mail's service for the final mile of delivery. This has led to Royal Mail recording a £100 million loss on its universal service provision, something which has never happened before as the profits from bulk mail meant Royal Mail was able to deliver mail anywhere in the country for one price, a long established service which is now under threat. An

independent report stated in May that the liberalisation of the postal market offered no substantial benefit to consumers and posed a substantial threat to the future of Royal Mail and therefore to the universal service. The report found big business to have benefited massively. Postcomm, in its 'independent' review used this information to argue for further privatisation and increased competition.

The bosses at Royal Mail are fully in support, wanting to scrap regulations and turn it into a real business, axing thousands of full-time jobs and closing down unprofitable post offices. Disturbingly the CWU leadership's response to the review recognises there will be job losses and that Royal Mail will not return to its former monopoly. This is not the response of a leadership committed to fighting to defend its members and to defending public services!

If the CWU bureaucrats are going to sell their members short like this then trade union activists need to organise a rank and file network which can organise the strike action necessary to oppose the attacks of Labour and the bosses. Such a network would force the leadership to take action or, if they still shamelessly refuse, then it could take action without their support. Every closure, pay cut or job cut could be met with

walk-outs and wild cats, with solidarity strikes so that the targeted area does not become isolated. There is potential for this network to be built now - on 28th May over a third of CWU branches called a meeting in London on what action can be taken, most of those attending supported taking industrial action against attacks. There is also potential for breaking the link between the CWU and Labour, the party which is attacking Royal Mail.

A motion giving Labour until March 2009 to shape up or the CWU would cut its funding to the party was passed and was supported by Billy Hayes, the general secretary. However promises like this have been made before and then shoved under the carpet. If workers in the post want to effectively defend their service, stop job cuts, and throw back the already implemented aspects of privatisation they will need to organise around their leaders whose actions time and again fail to live up to their words.

They will need to stop funding and supporting Labour, a party whose actions only benefit big business. And finally they will need to put that funding into supporting the creation of a new workers party which can fight to reverse privatisation and provide employment for all on the basis of a planned economy.

MAKE THE FAT CATS PAY!



★ BY MARK ★ LEEDS ★

The effects of the Credit Crunch are being felt strongly in Britain. Inflation is soaring as the rising cost of petrol and raw materials drives goods prices higher and rising transport prices push up the price of necessities like food, driving tens of thousands deeper into poverty. What is the bosses' answer to this crisis of capitalism? Make the workers pay! The government has a 2% wage freeze on the public sector pay in an effort to make the workers pay for the crisis by reducing the value of our wages. As inflation rises and the costs of goods increase, the value of wages falls as they are able to purchase less and less goods. By holding down public sector pay (reducing the likelihood of private sector pay increases) the bosses will force workers onto poverty wages while preserving their enormous profits.

At the same time bosses will be looking to lay off workers to reduce costs (ie maintain their profits) and make workers cheaper to employ. The more unemployed workers there are, the more competition there is for jobs so the capitalists can get away with offering lower wages, allowing the bosses to hold onto the profits of their system.

As these actions are carried out, the media will be full of government ministers, businessmen and ruling-class economists saying these policies are necessary to preserve the British economy so that Britain remains strong and competitive in the global capitalist

market, which will then be a good thing for British workers. This is a lie. These actions are only in the interests of the bosses. This isn't "our" economy, the working-class doesn't own and control it, we are exploited by it. And when it goes into its periodic crises are made to foot the bill while the capitalists continue to steal enormous profits. The economy isn't being planned to meet the needs of the workers - building hospitals, schools, factories, cultural and recreational facilities - it is being used to increase the profits of the capitalists at the expense of the world's workers, peasants and the Earth's environment. Capitalism is the bosses system, we have no interest in keeping it going so that "our" capitalists can compete with the capitalists of other countries.

Despite the credit crunch and the damage to the economy by the collapse of banks like Northern Rock the bosses in the financial sector gave themselves £13 Billion in bonuses this year! The capitalists aren't willing to take a pay cut when their system goes into crisis so why should we? Make the bosses pay for the crisis of their system!

The pay freeze in the public sector has already led to many strikes, most notably the postal strike in the autumn but also several days from PCS and the NUT's first national strike day in 21 years. However these strikes have been disorganised and intentionally isolated by the union bureaucrats to avoid confrontation with Labour.

These strikes needed to be linked up and turned into a public sector wide campaign to make the bosses and government pay for this crisis, not the workers. If the government can find £100 billion to bail out Northern Rock they can find enough money for a pay rise to meet inflation. And if the capitalists can find £13 billion for bonuses, on top of their profits they can meet the pay needs of private sector workers as well.

In order to struggle against the bosses and make them pay for this crisis we need:

Local committees of workers from across the public sector unions to coordinate action and link up our struggles.

A rank and file movement in the unions to organise against the TU bureaucrats who sell out and disorganise the fightback.

Increases in pay in line with increases in inflation, with price watch committees organised by workers committees to calculate the real level of inflation.

The bosses to open the books - when they say there's not enough money we will demand they prove it. If it turns out their business is actually bankrupt then it should be nationalised with no compensation.

Fight to cut hours, not wages, and hire more workers. The government should begin a series of public works paid for by taxing the rich to absorb the existing unemployed into the workforce.

BNP: FASCIST WANKERS

WHERE THEY CAME FROM, WHY THEY'RE FASCISTS AND HOW TO FIGHT THEM

★ BY KADY ★ WEST LONDON ★

Local elections this year saw a break through for the British National Party when Richard Barnbrook won a seat in the Greater London Authority elections with 5.3% of the vote. Although gains made in May were not as significant as the BNP had over-optimistically predicted, the result in London is a worrying indicator of the BNP being found increasingly more acceptable as a political party. Anti-racists and anti-fascists cannot allow the BNP to achieve the mainstream acceptance they are striving for.

Richard Barnbrook, only a month after taking that precious GLA seat, posted a blog on the Daily Telegraph site titled "Blame the immigrants" in which he says a "free society is one where the police can do their job the way they want to do it." Like the Gestapo were able to do their job in Nazi Germany, perhaps. The main content of the blog entry boils down to a badly worded and vague assertion that immigrants are in some way to blame for all knife and gun crime in London. This is a standard tactic of today's BNP. If their election material is to be believed immigrants are also the reason for the lack of NHS bed spaces, the housing crisis and high taxes!

The BNP of today appears very different from its earlier self. Founded in 1982, it was originally dominated by John Tyndall, ex-chairman of the NF and vociferous proponent of neo-Nazi tendencies. At the founding of the BNP Tyndall had written a book (The Authoritarian State, 1962) decrying liberal democracy as "a Jewish tool of world domination," that needed to be replaced by authoritarianism. He was also prosecuted for paramilitary organising when he tried to set up Spearhead, a private army modelled on Hitler's SA. Having set out their stall, the BNP concentrated on maintaining a high-



profile presence of grass-roots activists, and exploiting racial tensions in susceptible areas.

Tyndall was ousted as party leader in 1999 following a leadership contest which he lost to Nick Griffin. This marked the radical re-branding of the BNP towards the "respectable and electable" image which they now try and present to the voters. As such the BNP of the 21st century has re-oriented itself away from the overt neo-Nazism and anti-Semitism of old, towards an anti-immigration champion of the disenfranchised white working classes. But it is vital that anti-fascists recognise that in their campaigns of harassment, intimidation and violence towards immigrants and left-activists (such as the ENS member in Huddersfield who was attacked by BNP thugs) the fascist nature of the BNP.

And so, while they may continue to masquerade as a working-class oriented alterna-

tive to the mainstream parties and profess to be "the antidote to globalisation," their true goal as fascists is to unite the poorest sections of the white working class under the direction of the middle class and, ultimately, weave a new fascist front from the festering sores that constitute the British far-right. To smash the organized workers movements in order to preserve the profits of the capitalists.

Everywhere a BNP candidate enjoys even moderate success, racially and politically motivated violence increases dramatically; this can hardly be held to be coincidental. We must not be complacent while the BNP is small. A party so full of contradictions yet with an increasingly mainstream and popular support can quickly become a very real danger. Hitler once said that "the Nazi Party could have been stopped only if their opponents had seen them for what they were and crushed them when they were small." The

BNP is small now but it grows daily more popular as the left grows ever-more divided on how to deal with the threat.

This is why Revolution calls for a 'No Platform' stance towards the BNP, to actively seek through direct action to prevent the BNP from having a platform from which to disseminate their fascist lies. In answer to the fascists feeble cry for "freedom of speech" we deny the right to this freedom when it is used to take others freedom from them and are not fooled into thinking that the many neo-Nazis in the leadership of the BNP

would champion the freedom of speech for anyone but themselves. When supposed anti-fascists call for the BNP to be defeated in rational debate we say that the propaganda and programme of the BNP is not rational. How can migrant workers, without whom the Royal College of Nursing claims the NHS would be unable to function, be to blame for a lack of treatment? How can asylum seekers be to blame for hikes in council tax when the meager amount of money they are allowed isn't taken from council funds?

In the face of such vicious and irrational

lies we must fight to no platform the BNP through direct action - blockading publicity stalls, demonstrations - in order to raise awareness among the disorganized section of the working class who have not yet fallen prey to the BNP's cynical depredations. It is in this way that Revolution will continue to work to reverse the successes of the BNP, to expose their fraudulent attempts at legitimisation and to build a forum for the socialist youth of Britain to join the struggle.

RACISM: NOT JUST A BAD IDEA

Some people think racist ideas can be overcome just by educating people out of their prejudices. This is fine as far as it goes. REVOLUTION supports the maximum of anti-racist education and argument to counter the lies of racists who try to present 'other' cultures as 'strange', 'backward' or inferior. But there is more to racism than this. It is not just 'a prejudice', it is deeply entrenched in our society? it runs through some of the most powerful institutions of the State. Over the last few years the police, the prison service, the Home Office and the Crown Prosecution Service have all been successfully shown to be guilty of institutional racism.

So where did this come from?

Racism is a centuries-old theory that is used to justify a global system of discrimination against black and Asian people. It stems from Britain's role as a global colonial power? seizing control of Africa and India and looting them in its own interests. When capitalism started to take off in Britain in the 1600 and 1700s, British ships and British companies set off to foreign lands? with missionaries and musketeers in tow. They wanted one simple thing? to convert these countries into their own possessions. They plundered the land for resources? they converted the population into their workforce.

In Africa, they forced 115 million black people into slavery, transporting them to cotton, tobacco and sugar plantations. They stripped them of their possessions and broke up families. Herded like cattle, 75

million died in transit or soon after arriving. In India, a brutal colonial administration ran the whole country. The British suppressed with brutal violence huge rebellions of the Indian people. in 1857, 1919 and all through the 1920s and 30s. By 1942 India was aflame with rebellion.

The British (and other colonial powers like France, Spain, Portugal and Holland) claimed black and Asian people were inferior to 'whites'. They developed fake 'scientific' theories that were supposed to prove that black people, Asians and Jews were inferior. The economic, social and political domination of the 'white race' was explained not as a result of colonial exploitation, but on the unproven claim that whites are somehow biologically superior. They even tried to use the evolutionary theories of Charles Darwin to create what they called 'Social-Darwinism'. This distortion of Darwin was used to claim - with appalling pseudo-science - that whites are more highly evolved than blacks.

Since the end of the Second World War over 50 years ago, Britain has not ruled Africa or India directly. The 'official' line coming out of London, Paris and Washington has shifted slightly. The capitalists have left the ravings of social-Darwinism in the hands of fanatics like the neo-Nazis and the BNP. But 'official' racism is still alive and kicking. Today the big advanced capitalist countries of the G8 do not rule colonies like India and Africa in the same way as their ancestors did in the 18th and 19th centuries. Instead, they own the

Third World, though the Debt, the World Bank, the World Trade Organisation and the 'starve-to-pay-us-back-for-our-loans' programmes of the International Monetary Fund.

The western powers suggest that 'backward' countries are basically lazy, that African people can't be trusted not to just kill each other, that the Third World needs NATO bombers to sort it out. They treat refugees as dirty, money-grabbing free-loaders, rather than as the victims of the West's blast-and-ruin policies. And they insist that people from other countries should 'integrate' into 'official' British culture even though that culture is just another version of the same old globalising Pepsi-Nike-Big-Mac nightmare that capitalism is spreading all over the world. It will take more than educating people against racist lies to beat racism.

- Root racism out of the workplace, the community and the institutions: win the power of the trade union movement to the antiracist struggle
- Organise self-defence against racist attacks - wherever they come from, racists or even the police themselves
- Tear down the borders and let refugees and asylum seekers in
- Smash the BNP and NF
- Cancel Third World Debt
- Unite all the peoples of the planet in the fight against global capitalism
- Build a global communist commonwealth in which all people can be equal

PRICE RISE ANGER EXPLODES ACROSS THE GLOBE

★ BY SEAN ★ HUDDERSFIELD ★

In early April the imperialist nature of the UN was made clear in Haiti when troops shot at demonstrators outside the presidential palace and food stores. The UN response to this? Send another 100 "peacekeepers" to "keep order". The BBC response? Slander the mass demonstrations by claiming they were "infiltrated" by drug dealers and that the protesters were "looting shops". When 80% of the population lives off less than a £1 a day and rapidly rising food prices mean that you're going without more meals than your previous subsistence levels, it's hardly surprising that stockpiles of food were "looted".

In Egypt two demonstrators were shot dead and hundreds arrested after strikes and protests against the cost of food rising by 40% in the last year. In the West African country Burkina Faso a two-day general strike against the rising cost of rice was dismissed by the Prime Minister who declared "the people can march and march but nothing will change", to which the striking workers issued a joint declaration that "we will march, march until the situation does change". In the Ivory Coast, prices have soared up to 60% per week, leading to mass demonstrations. In

Cambodia demonstrations, provoked by the price of a kilo of rice growing to 50p when average daily wages are only 25p, were broken up by police using cattle prods. Rice riots in Cameroon in February that left 40 people dead. There were heated demonstrations in Mauritania, Mozambique and Senegal, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Bolivia and Indonesia.

As a desperate response, many third world governments have been forced to momentarily curb the profits of exporters, with Cambodia, China, Vietnam, India and Pakistan have all imposing restrictions on rice exports. The UN has said that prices of all staple food have risen 80% in three years, and that 33 countries face immediate unrest because of this, and that at the current rate, an extra 100 million people worldwide face starvation, and this doesn't take into account the hundreds of millions more pushed to the brink just to meet the growing demand on their wages.

The growth of food protests around the world clearly has the capitalists scared. The World Bank, terrified of its puppet governments being overthrown, hypocritically talked about the need for a "global new deal" after years of forcing third world governments to dismantle their wel-

fare states, and even the Financial Times had to admit that food price rises are caused "in part" by profit-seeking speculators artificially increasing the price of grain when there is no shortage worldwide (it is estimated that there is enough food for 3500 calories per person per day worldwide, almost double what is needed for a healthy lifestyle).

However, no empty promises by the UN or the World Bank can save us from the effects of a global economic crisis. The real problem is that under capitalism, production is organised for profit, not need, and there is no incentive to produce for people who don't have the money to pay. Often it's more profitable to sell crops to energy companies to be used as bio-fuels or even to burn them or hoard them in underground warehouses, than it is to use them to feed those who are hungry. We need to support and unite the struggles going on across the world, and provide a global answer to a global crisis: take the economies of the world out of private hands and use our natural resources and enormous human and technological potential to produce enough food for everyone, today and on a long term basis.

Carbon Credits? Do me a favour...

The environmental crisis caused by capitalism continues to grow and threaten the Earth's survival. Carbon credits are being touted as a way of maintaining and decreasing carbon emissions in order to reverse global warming.

The idea behind carbon credits is simple. In theory, each year companies are issued a number of credits, with the total amount decreasing each year. Companies have to keep cutting their emissions to keep pace with the smaller number of credits, otherwise they would have to buy more credits which would become more expensive. This would be an incentive to cut emissions year on year.

So why doesn't it work?

Firstly because of the number of credits - the first batch issued by the European Carbon Trading Scheme amounted to more than the total amount of emissions in Europe, meaning no cuts were necessary! This batch

was also given out for free - a thinly veiled corporate handout from the government.

The credits quickly became worthless for trading because there was such a surplus in the market. The second year of the ECTS the amount of credits was less than the total amount of emissions, but by less than 1% - hardly the heavy cuts needed to avoid further environmental destruction. Many companies lie about their emissions, overestimating their expected annual growth in order to secure extra credits and so avoid making cuts or paying for more credits. These excess credits can then be sold at a profit to those institutions, generally public services, which aren't driven by the profit motive to overestimate their growth and so can struggle to function within their limited carbon budget.

The carbon credits system also allows companies to avoid making cuts by purchasing "carbon offsets" instead: developments aimed at reducing carbon emis-

sions which are deducted from a company's total emissions, such as renewable energy developments or reforestation projects in the Third World. The idea that planting a few trees in Africa, or building a few wind turbines, makes up for the fact that a company has not reduced its own emissions is fundamentally flawed and allows the overall level of emissions to carry on growing.

Carbon credits, far from tackling climate change, have simply become a highly profitable form of greenwash. They let companies keep polluting as usual and even make extra profits from trading credits, while giving the appearance of doing something about global warming. The market encourages pollution by rewarding those companies that keep costs down by relying on fossil fuels; it holds no solutions to climate change.

By Mark B, Leeds

WARNING! MAD EMO CULT EATS YOUR KIDS



★ BY MIKE ★ EMO HUNTER EXTROADINAIRE ★ LEEDS ★

Stop thinking about the war in Iraq or the credit crunch! There is a far more pressing problem, and it doesn't involve anything that you can blame the government for...

Teenagers across Britain are committing acts of suicide and self-harm, and it's all to do with the 'emo' trend. It has nothing to do with youth oppression or the poor prospects and falling standard of living that await youth. It's because they listen to music with emotional lyrics. Youth are easily suggestible, and any music that doesn't consist of only major chords is bound to drive thousands of them over the edge, like lemmings.

The popular emo band "my chemical romance" released a single entitled "the black parade". From our extensive research on emoism, we can only conclude that this must be where emos think they will go when they die.

Parents have, thankfully, started to take measures against the emo trend and are increasingly on the lookout for suspicious behaviour like hair-dyeing, which we sug-

gest should be punishable by grounding. Nothing will cheer them up and stop them cutting themselves like being locked in their room and having to wear the clothes their parents bought them!

Is it surprising that our kids are killing themselves when you look at what the music industry is up to, with its liberal agenda to paint a grim picture of the world? They portray our crusade of freedom as a war that has killed thousands, and our democratic system as a mechanism for exploitation.

In addition, the abuse of the so-called "internet" by certain undesirables has led to all kinds of evil nonsense being spread. Socialist and anarchist (read: degenerate) ideals are being force-fed to your children in the name of 'reading'. Thousands of youth have betrayed their country and joined the anti-war movement. There are also bad examples from abroad, like thousands more radical youth fighting with the police against modernisation of the education and employment system in France. This move-

ment was so dangerous it actually managed to defeat the government!

It is very clear that the youth are naïve. We need to help them realise how they should think, act and dress. Children should wear designer clothes and take part in wholesome activities like the combined cadet force. If only these misguided hoodlums would look to their country and join up against the anti-British forces who want to destroy our sceptered isle, instead of wallowing in antisocial circles, then Britain would not be in the socialist hell-hole it is.

We urge you to provide your children with good role models that will teach them that the world is a fair place, governed by people who want the best for them. We are working hard in conjunction with the culture minister to put together a list of 'approved listening' to de-emoise Britain's youth.

Women's oppression: what it is, how to fight it

★ BY REBECCA ★ LEEDS ★

The most prominent attack on women's rights at the moment is the attempt to reduce the number of weeks in which we can access an abortion. They are also trying to put up other barriers like a 'cooling off period' where we would have to wait longer between seeing a doctor about an abortion and actually getting it. Pro-life rallies in Leeds and other parts of the country show that there is some support for these proposals, which generally comes from religious right-wingers.

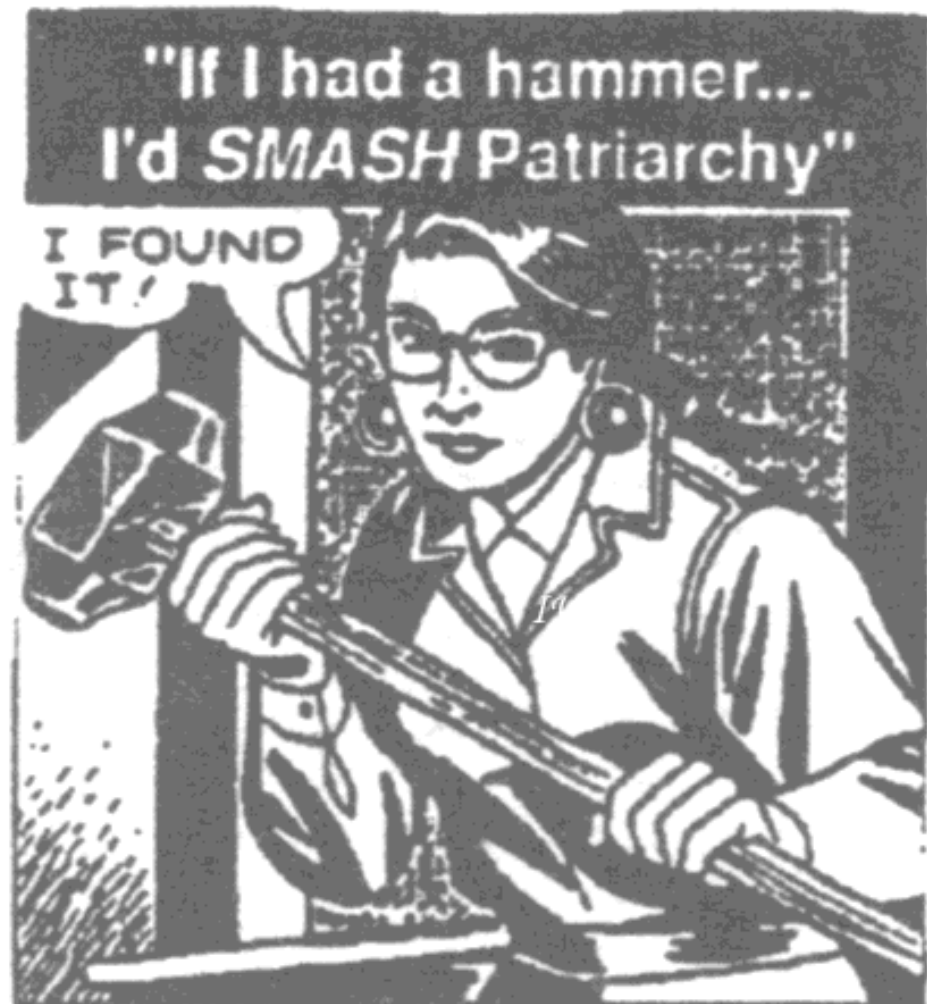
Both in parliament and in wider society, it's the right wing that opposes abortion and the left wing that stands up for women's right to choose. This division continues across the whole spectrum of women's oppression e.g. our right to work and to have equal pay, and can be explained by looking at the actual roots of women's oppression.

The family is a good place to start, because that's where women and men traditionally have very separate and defined roles - where the men go out to work and the women stay at home and do the cooking, cleaning, washing, childcare etc. This might not ring completely true for a lot of families in Britain today because the majority of women work, but this doesn't mean that women aren't still expected to do the most of the housework as well, or that children aren't still seen as a woman's responsibility.

When we start talking about the family as part of women's oppression we come up against the argument that women have always performed these roles and so it's absurd to think we can change this. In fact, the exact form of the family has varied throughout history; while it's fair to say that the idea of women mainly belonging in the home goes back a long way, we have to ask WHY it has been this way for so long and what's DIFFERENT nowadays.

People started grouping into families thousands of years ago because we started farming our own bits of land or fishing in our own little bit of a river or lake. If property was going to be passed from father to son, society had to know whose son was whose and so people had to form families in which each woman was tied to one man. The man's role as the farmer or fisher etc meant that the women did the other work - basically the same work as we do today.

The protection of this family unit is at the heart of the attacks on women today - they don't want us to be able to have abortions because this gives us the freedom to decide whether or not to have children and be part of a family. Single women



are constantly attacked in the media - if a single mum works then she's attacked for not spending enough time with her kids and if she doesn't work then she's a burden on society. What this all boils down to is the view that they should be part of proper families.

If all women chose not to be part of a family and perform housework and childcare for free, then someone would have to pay for it. That someone would be our government and bosses; that's what we're fighting for and it's what the government, the religious groups and the employers are fighting against. We don't want to work for free and they don't want to have to start shelling out for all that ironing, hoovering and washing-up.

What's so different now from thousands of years ago is that society has developed to the point that it would be very easy to share out all the housework and childcare across society into the laundrettes and crèches. It would actually be much better and more efficient: rather than having a hundred women in a hundred houses washing clothes we could have a few people

working to wash the clothes for a hundred houses. It seems completely logical but parliament and the bosses will fight against it tooth and nail because it's so profitable for them to have women work for free.

Working class women suffer the most from this oppression because they can't afford a nanny, a crèche, a housekeeper or a laundrette and therefore have to juggle work and childcare. We have different interests from ruling class women whose main concern is to fight for equal rights to get to the top and exploit us.

If we want liberation and to have equal rights with men then we have to get rid of the roots of women's oppression - class society - and we have to unite with the other struggles against the system for higher wages and better working conditions and against racism, homophobia and youth oppression. It's a struggle for socialism and a different society where we can decide how to organise our own lives and not have it decided for us by people who will only do what's profitable.

What's happening to the world economy and how does it affect us?

★ BY JOHN ★ LEEDS ★

What is the Global Credit Crunch?

In the last few months the term 'Credit Crunch' has been all over the front pages. Months before, the term was regularly used in the business press, but it was with the collapse of bank Northern Rock that the panic in Britain really started. Without warning its share price fell to rock bottom. Savers rushed to their local branches, forming queues round street corners to withdraw their savings, whilst the government spent billions of taxpayers money to bail out the bank's debt and nationalise all its unprofitable assets.

The reason for Northern Rock's collapse was taking on debts from US companies who had loaned money at high rates of interest to people on low incomes who couldn't afford to pay it back. Northern Rock wasn't the only bank to have taken on this 'bad debt'; in fact many financial companies have been doing this and are now in serious difficulty. The main problem is that no-one knows how much of the money which the banks have on paper will actually be paid back to them, and as a result they banks are now scared to give loans.

What effect has it had?

The immediate effect is that borrowing money is no longer cheap, and this applies to mortgages for houses. In the USA, house repossessions are up 90% since the crunch began. In addition, many businesses can't find the loans they need. This means less jobs, and that's not even looking at the many thousands of impending job losses from the financial sector. The worse case scenario and the one which looks increasingly likely is that job losses will result in a major loss of consumers, and those who are in work tightening their belts. Fewer consumers will result in shops and factories laying off staff and closing down, creating a vicious spiral of poverty. This is what a recession looks like.

Rising prices & rising poverty

To make matters worse inflation is continuing to rise. The fuel used to manufacture the goods we buy, farm the food we eat and deliver it all around the world is making everything cost more, especially basic necessities like fuel and food. Wages however are staying put, with the government and business refusing to raise wages in line with inflation. So everything costs more but we have no more money to buy it with!

How does it affect us?

As usual, young people will be hit disproportionately hard. Young workers tend to be in the most precarious and low paid jobs, such as those working for temp agencies and in retail. Often we can be sacked with no

warning and no redundancy pay. We tend to work in places that are poorly unionised with nobody to defend our interests. The huge rises in prices mean that our lower wage packets will be even more difficult to live on.

Many of us in education are to a more or lesser degree reliant on our parents for some sort of income, so as older workers too are hit, college and university are going to become less affordable for working class youth – particularly given the rising costs of tuition fees. Students now leaving university with can expect real difficulty in finding work when they graduate, and many will not be able to pay their debts. The situation is even worse for the majority of kids who leave school or college and have to find a job.

Capitalism is to blame – so let's fight it!

The 'credit crunch' that will hit workers and the poor hardest is no freak accident in a capitalist world economy. The cycle of boom and bust is an integral part of the system we live under. When the huge multi-national banks and businesses reach the stage that they have more wealth than they can profitably reinvest, the recession starts and workers feel the brunt through inflation, lower wages unemployment.

Capitalism is incapable of fulfilling the needs of the vast majority of the world's 6 billion people, 1 billion of whom live on less than \$1 per day. As the economic crisis continues, we demand:

- Tax the rich, not the poor! Higher unemployment benefit now!
- Work is a right! No more job cuts – create more jobs by spending money on our hospitals and schools, not failing banks.
- Nationalise failing banks! No compensation for their thieving owners!
- Nationalise without compensation any business which wants to lay off workers! Don't let them scale down production of the goods and services which we all depend on, just because it's profitable for them
- Wages must rise in line with price rises!
- Unionise young workers! We must fight to prevent job losses and pay cuts.

REVOLUTION fights in favour of a planned economy based upon people not profit. We fight to create a mass international revolutionary youth organisation to achieve this. Young people have been at the forefront of struggle in every historic crisis of capitalism, and this time will be no different.

INDIA FUEL STRIKE

★ BY RIA ★ LEEDS ★

Nationwide protests were held in India on June 6th after the Indian cabinet decided to raise the price of fuel for the second time this year. Communist-run states such as West Bengal were brought virtually to a standstill as schools, colleges and markets were closed in strike action called by the communist parties. Fuel prices (which include the important basic commodity - cooking gas) were raised by 10% in order to move closer to the world price. The decision was made by the cabinet after two weeks of debate, stating that the state-owned oil companies were losing millions of dollars every day due to increasing global oil prices. Although this may be the case, the rise will cause the working class (who are already struggling to make ends meet) to suffer. A statement on the Communist Party of India (Marxist) website states 'What is at stake today is not the market capitalisation of the oil companies but the livelihood of the working people who are already suffering from back-breaking inflation.' This increase in fuel prices will of course lead to the cost of food rising, as well as other commodities. Inflation in India is approaching 9% - a seven year high - and shows no sign of slowing in the current economic situation.

India has little oil resources and as a result imports 2 thirds of the energy it uses, and has seen the global price of oil increase dramatically in recent months. This has placed an enormous strain on the government's budget and lead to the fuel price rises. However this is a capitalist strategy for dealing with the crisis. Instead of burdening the workers with increased fuel prices the government should tax the capitalists who exploit India's workers and peasants to pay for the increased cost of fuel. Putting the energy companies under workers control would ensure fuel supplies could be allocated to meet the needs of the poor, not the needs of the capitalists and ensure scarce energy resources are not misused.

★ ONE WORLD ★ ONE BATTLE ★

REVOLUTION 11

OBAMA: ZIONISM'S BEST BUDDY

In the first week of June, Democrats Obama and Clinton and Republican McCain all met with the powerful lobbyist organisation the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and competed to pose as Israel's biggest ally.

Obama stated that he was a "true friend" of Israel, that US support for Israel is "unbreakable today, unbreakable tomorrow, unbreakable forever", and that he considers Israel's security to be "sacrosanct" and "non-negotiable". To demonstrate this, he declared that Jerusalem must remain the undivided Israeli capital. He committed himself to keep on funding Israel with around \$30 billion US dollars over the next 10 years. He also promised "tough and principled diplomacy" against Iran, and to do everything in his power to stop Iran's getting nuclear weapons.

Many anti-war and pro-Palestinian activists, and even many Palestinians, saw this as a betrayal. Some had hoped that Obama would be a new kind of US president: a young black man running for office in a country with a vicious history of racial segregation, and a charismatic speaker promising "change" and a more just society. As Senator for Illinois, Obama had even met with pro-Palestine activists and said, "Nobody is suffering more than the Palestinian people".

In reality, Obama has not betrayed anyone but simply exposed his true Zionist and imperialist colours.

There was never a chance of the US government liberating the Palestinians. The USA, whether ruled by a Democrat or a Republican, needs Israel to watch over the Middle East and expand American interests in the region. From Lebanon to Iran, Israel's "right to exist" has been the pretext for brutal wars, interventions and sanctions that serve US interests.

If we want real change in US foreign policy, we have to look to the actions of militant young people and workers, like the San Francisco dockers who on May 1st called a strike against the war and issued a joint statement along with the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions calling for Troops Out Now. The resistance of Palestinians, Iraqis, Lebanese and Afghans is seriously wounding US-Israeli hopes to control the region.

Our job as young workers and students in the west is to support these struggles and resistance movements, and to oppose the war effort at home. This is the only way we will see peace, justice and real "change" - a word that Obama, for all his rhetoric, has shown he will never provide.